

rump and dark throat. It is obviously a very distinct species, as will be seen from the figure.

The types of this species were obtained in May 1899 at El Paillon, near Buenaventura, in the same forest as those of *C. emiliae*. The specimen in the Tring Museum, from which the figure has been taken, was procured by Mr. Mikelta at Paramba, a farm on the western bank of the river Mira, in N.W. Ecuador (*cf.* Hartert, Nov. Zool. v. p. 478), on August 16th, 1898. It is labelled by the collector "♂ : iris dark brown ; feet bluish ; bill dark."

There are also two skins of this species in the British Museum, lately received from the well-known collector Mr. P. O. Simons. They were obtained, in July 1900, at Oroya and Rio Yinimbare, Peru.

XLIII.—*On a few Additions to the Birds of Lucknow**.

By WILLIAM JESSE.

A DISTRICT like that of Lucknow, lying in the centre of territory long in the possession of the British, with a comparatively large European sporting population, civil and military, is not likely to contain much that is novel in ornithology—the more so, as all Northern India has been worked by enthusiasts stirred by the examples of Hodgson, Jerdon, Blyth, and Hume. We can only hope to add a few fresh species to the fauna of the neighbourhood and to gather further information about those already recorded. Much has yet to be learnt regarding migration, both general and local, which may give us clues to meteorological facts of which we are at present ignorant. There is no doubt whatever that mammals and birds—the latter especially—are able in some way to forecast the weather ; and, if their yearly wanderings were more accurately observed, it is possible that conclusions drawn therefrom would not prove altogether valueless to the Meteorological Department. Be this as it may, there is much to interest a lover of birds even in such a well-worked spot as the capital of Oudh. That the results of my recent

* For previous notes see *Ibis*, 1896, p. 185 ; 1897, p. 554 ; and 1899, p. 344.

labours are so poor is due to two facts. In the first place, owing to a severe touch of sunstroke, I have been compelled to restrict my wanderings more or less to the early mornings and the evenings; and, in the second place, beyond a bicycle, I have nothing save my feet as a means of locomotion. To do good work upon the larger birds of prey it is necessary to have a horse and to ride over wide tracts of country, scanning the most likely trees and marking any nests that may be seen. I have been singularly unlucky with such species. Thus I have only once got an egg of the Indian Tawny Eagle (*Aquila vindhiana*)—and that was rotten,—though I must have found ten or a dozen nests empty or with young. Curiously, just beneath the egg, in the underside of this nest, a family of Chirukas (*Uroloncha malabarica*) had taken up their abode. Similarly, I have not yet succeeded in obtaining an egg of the Black Vulture (*Otogyps calvus*), though I have visited several breeding-places at different times.

The long distances to be covered before reaching the bigger jheels have prevented me from thoroughly searching the neighbourhood for water-birds, but I hope in time to be able to shew that numbers of species nest with us of which the eggs have not yet been taken in this district.

The little that I have done is mainly due to the valuable help which I have received from innumerable pupils in La Martinière College and to their unceasing energy. Whether it be in his knowledge of the habits of the feathered tribes, born of years of patient watching, or in the skill with which he will track down a bird to its nest, the average Anglo-Indian boy is far in advance of his English cousin. For him no cheap book is obtainable filled with accurate information, and he has to rely upon his own powers of observation, with occasional assistance from some friendly ornithologist. Needless to say, what he does know he knows thoroughly, and, if his nomenclature be not that used by Jerdon or that found in the volumes of the 'Fauna of British India,' he is little the worse for that.

Furthermore, the highest tree, the thinnest branch, has no terrors for the Martinière lad. The practice of generations

has made his race almost arboreal, and where he shrinks to go I would advise no one to make the attempt.

The natives of Oudh, on the other hand, are practically useless as finders of nests. When Vultures, Herons, Egrets, or the like breed in colonies near their villages, they will sometimes inform you of the fact, and occasionally a small urchin, who is looking after the cows, will point out to you a clutch of Plover's eggs, but that is all. I was fortunate enough to find an excellent climber in my chowkidar, but it is not often that a villager will risk his life or limbs over a difficult nest.

In my notes I have left out all reference to the Great Indian Stone-Plover (*Esacus recurvirostris*), the Indian Spurwing (*Hoplopterus ventralis*), and the Small Indian Swallow-Plover (*Glareola lactea*). These birds were already known to have occurred within the limits of the Division, though they had not actually been seen near the city. However, I have myself shot examples of the first two species on the banks of the Goomti close to La Martinière, and have seen the third bird in the same locality.

On the other hand, I have given short notes on the Sociable Lapwing (*Chettusia gregaria*) and the Black Partridge (*Francolinus vulgaris*), because, although on the "list," they had evidently been included with a certain amount of doubt.

Before concluding, I cannot but refer to the loss that Indian ornithology has sustained though the death of Mr. George Reid, who passed away at Lucknow early in the present year. Though I never had the good fortune to make his acquaintance personally, we corresponded regularly, and, up to the last, he took a keen interest in everything connected with his hobby. His list of the Lucknow birds is extremely complete, particularly when it is remembered that he had to compile it at odd moments and practically unaided. The Lucknow Civil Division is now far larger than it used to be. The number of Commissionerships in Oudh has been reduced to two—Fyzabad and Lucknow. The size of the new Division and the limitations imposed by my scholastic work have quite prevented me from treating of nearly the whole

area. As it is, the district worked by Reid is more than I can manage, and, for the present, all my notes are restricted to those parts of Oudh the avifauna of which he described years ago in 'Stray Feathers.'

FRANKLINIA GRACILIS (Oates). Franklin's Wren-Warbler.

I came across this pretty little bird this year for the first time. Its discovery is really due to Mr. Benjamin Aitken, for we were searching for nests in some babool-jungle on May 7th, when he called my attention to the peculiar note of a small Warbler, and advised me to shoot the bird to make sure of the species. As the pair we observed were very restless, flitting rapidly from tree to tree, it was some time before I could secure one of them, which was somewhat damaged by the shot. I found it to be a typical specimen of *F. gracilis*. It was impossible to determine the sex, so evidently the birds were not preparing to breed. Possibly this small species is commoner than it appears to be, and is overlooked. It cannot, however, be very numerous, as neither I nor the late Mr. George Reid had previously met with it.

SYLVIA JERDONI (Blyth). Eastern Orphean Warbler.

I obtained a specimen of this species (probably a male) during the winter of 1897. It was feeding on the insects in a babool-tree at the time. Unluckily it was very badly damaged by the shot, and I could only determine the sex approximately by the coloration. Reid does not mention the bird, and I have never seen nor heard of it since. It cannot therefore, I think, be common.

STURNUS PURPURASCENS (Gould). Gould's Starling.

In a letter, dated August 9th, 1900, Reid wrote to me:—"You should note the occurrence of *Sturnus purpurascens* at Lucknow: Sharpe, of the British Museum, found a specimen among some 'Starlings' that I sent him years ago. These are all, I think, included in the Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum."

MOTACILLA CITREOLOIDES (Sharpe). Hodgson's Yellow Wagtail.

I shot a single male specimen with very pronounced black

patches on the back and neck on Jan. 1, 1898. It was feeding by the edge of the Goomti in company with several examples of *M. borealis*.

MELANOCORYPIA BIMACULATA (Blanf.). Eastern Calandra Lark.

A boy friend, J. Green, brought me one of these Larks which he had purchased from a bird-catcher. The man said that he had caught it on one of the wide open maidáns, or plains, close to Lucknow. The bird became very tame and used to sing extremely well. Eventually it was killed and eaten by a snake, which got into its cage during the night.

DICÆUM ERYTHORRHYNCHUM (Hume). Tickell's Flower-pecker.

This bird has been entirely overlooked in Lucknow, and its discovery is due to the Martinière boys. For years I had been told of the "White Honey-sucker," a bird which they said made a nest very much like that of the Purple Sun-bird, but which laid *white* eggs. For a long time I did not believe them, but on March 13, 1900, two boys, J. Green and L. Jackson, told me that they had found a nest with one egg. I went with them and saw it, a tiny grass ball lined with hair, with a hole in the side, suspended beneath some mango-leaves. Though I waited for some time, I had at length to go without seeing the bird, but I have no doubt as to the authenticity of the specimens, which I took. On March 10 of this year, Green showed me another nest just ready for eggs in a bêt-tree, about 5 feet from the ground. It was most cleverly hidden. Unluckily, the two birds, which were watching us, deserted it, and all I got was the empty fabric. As I write I have been disturbed by a little bird fluttering about the verandah, and through my glasses I can see distinctly that it is a specimen of *Dicæum erythrorhynchum*. The nest is *most* difficult to find, and would more often escape notice but for the characteristic shrill note of the owner, which is easily recognised. The late Major Cock, apparently, found the bird and eggs at

Sitapur, a cantonment situated about 60 miles from this station and almost due north of it.

CORACIAS GARRULUS (Linn.). European Roller.

I did not know before that the European Roller came much east of the Punjab, and was consequently very much surprised, when out shooting about the 25th of October, 1899, to see one of these birds flying about a snipe-jheel. It was so tame that I was able to wait till I could make sure of not injuring it, and then I knocked it over with a lightly-charged cartridge. The bird was a male, and I did not see any mate. The jheel was right out in the open, in the centre of an "usar" plain, surrounded on all sides by high grass. The bird kept making darts into the air after insects, and returning to perch on the dry clods amongst the rushes.

[Since writing this, Lt.-Col. H. B. Thornhill, I.S.C., tells me that he has come across the species in Bareilly; and in a letter the late Mr. George Reid has stated that on one or two occasions he fancied that he *saw* the European Roller, though he never succeeded in actually obtaining a specimen.]

HIERAËTUS PENNATUS (Blyth). The Booted Eagle.

This bird is not included by Reid in his list of birds of the Lucknow Civil Division, although it is true that he remarks that it is "almost certain to be found." In the latest catalogue (1890) of the Lucknow Provincial Museum there are three specimens entered as obtained in Lucknow, viz. : ad. sex ?, ad. ♂, jr. ♂. I have come across this handsome little Eagle on two or three occasions in the large park of La Martinière College. The first example was a female, which I shot. I was attracted to it by the cries of a party of *Argya malcolmi*, which were flying all round, evidently in a perfect fever of excitement. This was on Dec. 17, 1897. Several times after this I saw another bird, which I concluded was the mate of the former. My second specimen was also obtained in the Martinière park, while sitting in a sheshum-tree, in the middle of March, 1899. On examining the label I find that I did not determine the sex, but, judging from its small

size, I fancy that it is a male. The feet, legs, and cere in this bird were lemon-yellow ; in the female I noted the bill as yellowish grey at the base and bluish black at the tip. Since that time I have on two or three occasions come across birds which I believe to have been examples of this Eagle, but was unable to secure them.

MILVUS MELANOTIS (Temm. & Schleg.). Large Indian Kite.

There is no mention by Reid of this Kite occurring in Lucknow, but there is a skin in the Museum from the adjoining district of Hardoi. I shot a female, which was sitting on a low dhák-tree by a jheel, on Jan. 18, 1900. When I caught sight of it, I mistook it for an Eagle, and as it rose knocked it over, without, however, paying much attention to it. When I came to examine the skin I saw at once what it was. Had not my man determined the sex, I should have said that 25 inches was small for a female of this species. The tail-feathers, however, were very much frayed and broken. The shafts of the breast- and head-feathers were very dark brown edged with white. The bird itself was a very dark specimen, all the rufous tints being conspicuous by their absence. The white wing-patches were fairly well marked, but were buffy rather than pure white.

To make certain that my identification was correct, I sent the skin to the Calcutta Museum, where my conclusions were confirmed.

BUTEO FEROX (Jerdon). Long-legged Buzzard.

The late Mr. George Reid did not include this species in his list, but evidently came across it after publication, as I find an unnamed skin of it with his label attached ["♂, Lucknow Dist., 12.11.88"]. A second skin—also unnamed, but with the Museum (native) collector's label on it ["♀, Lucknow Dist., 30.12.1888"]—is in the collection of the Provincial Museum. I myself have shot two specimens—one in the cold weather of 1899, the other, a female, on the 7th of Nov., 1900. The skin of the first has, unfortunately, been mislaid, but the second—which I sent

to Calcutta to have my identification confirmed—is a very fine example. The upper plumage is dark brown, the edges of the feathers, particularly the scapulars, being a rich rufous. The head is much lighter, the feathers, though dark-shafted, being much paler—often white—on the edges, and the white basal feathers shewing through. The chin, throat, and breast are white, with a few dark shaft-stripes; the abdomen and thighs are a rich dark brown, tinged with rufous, and with several large white drops irregularly distributed.

According to the label, the feet and legs were lemon-yellow, and the claws and bill lead-black. I shot both birds near the same place, a babool-jungle, in the middle of an open plain. I fancy that I have seen other specimens on several occasions, but I have never had a chance of getting them. In the Museum there is a *very* dark, almost melanistic, specimen (♀), shot by the native collector at Pithanogarh (Kumaun).

FRANCOLINUS VULGARIS (Steph.). Black Partridge.

Reid, though he admitted this bird into his "list," only did so on hearsay. His belief that it existed within the borders of the division has been proved correct by Mr. T. Peacock, of this station, who very kindly brought me the fresh skin of a Black Partridge, which his brother had killed in the patowal grass fringing the railway-line about two miles from La Martinière College. It must, however, have been a straggler. The nearest locality for it that I *know* of is the "manjar" of the R. Gogra at Fyzabad.

RALLUS AQUATICUS (Linn.). European Water-Rail.

One day at the beginning of December 1899, Mr. De Cruz, of Lucknow, very kindly sent me an unknown bird that he had shot. Seeing that it was a Water-Rail, I had it skinned immediately, when it proved to be a female. On examination I noticed that it lacked the eye-band of *R. indicus*, so I sent it to Mr. Finn, of Calcutta, who kindly examined it for me, and confirmed my surmise that it belonged to this species. Except this specimen, I can find no record of either

this species or of *R. indicus* occurring in Lucknow, though I fancy the latter has been overlooked and will be found eventually.

CHETTUSIA GREGARIA (Bonap.). Sociable Lapwing.

Reid states that he never came across this bird, while, on the other hand, Captain Irby mentions it as "exceedingly common on open sandy plains in January, February, and March." Common it certainly is not, but on three or four occasions I met with flocks of this Lapwing in the month of December in 1898 and 1899. The birds appear to me to be exceedingly tame; I have always been able to walk up to within fifteen or twenty yards of them. They are generally to be found in flocks of from ten to thirty individuals feeding on ploughed land, the members keeping well apart.

LARUS CACHINNANS (Pallas). Yellow-legged Herring-Gull.

This Gull, which is, to my untutored mind, identical with my old friend of the Cornish cliffs, seems fairly common on the Gogra, Ganges, and Ranganga Rivers, on all of which I have seen it. It is not, however, plentiful on our "jheels." Reid stated in his "list" that he had seen, but not secured, a large Gull which must have been of this species. The only specimen actually obtained within the limits of the old Lucknow Division was brought to me by a bird-catcher, who said that he got it on one of the big jheels in the direction of Sitapur. Major Pollock, I.S.C., also tells me that he has frequently seen this bird on certain large shallow lakes in the Division.

PELECANUS ONOCROTALUS (Linn.). European White Pelican.

Reid stated that, although he had not included it in his list, he was "pretty certain that *P. onocrotalus* also occurred here." It is now fairly evident that he was quite right, for I have received four skins of Pelicans from Mr. Marlboro Crosse, of the Educational Department, who very kindly shot the birds for me when out in camp in the district. Three of these turn out to belong to the Eastern variety (*P. roseus*),

but the fourth is a much larger bird, with a bill quite two inches longer and rather narrower in proportion. Unfortunately we have not a large series in the local museum, but I do not think that there is any doubt that the above-mentioned bird is *P. onocrotalus*, or, at any rate, what does duty for that species in India.

BUTORIDES JAVANICA (Blyth). Little Green Heron.

This bird, though not included in Reid's list, seems to be not uncommon on the banks of the Goomti. It is always, so far as I have observed, solitary. I fancy that, like other Bitterns, it is more or less nocturnal, for though I have seen it perched on a stone during the middle of the day, it is certainly more often met with as the sun is declining.

ARDETTA SINENSIS (Blyth). Yellow Bittern.

I have never actually met with this bird myself, but in March 1899, Mr. B. G. Smithe, when out shooting, obtained a fine specimen (♂ ?) in a jheel near Lucknow, which he most kindly sent to me; it is now in the Museum. I can find no previous record of its having been obtained in these parts.

NYROCA MARILA (Linn.). Scaup.

I have never observed this rare Duck myself, but Major Thompson, R.A.M.C., told me that he had shot one on a jheel near Lucknow at the end of 1898. Unfortunately, not knowing that anyone wanted the skin, he did not preserve it, but he said that he knew the Duck well in Europe, and to make sure he had examined the bird carefully and compared it with descriptions. I think, therefore, under the circumstances, that this occurrence can be taken as authenticated.

MARMARONETTA ANGUSTIROSTRIS (Reichenb.). Marbled Teal.

Lieut. Gaine, R.A.M.C., gave me the skin of a Marbled Teal, which he and Captain Faichnie, of the same corps, had obtained near Lucknow. Unfortunately the bird had been skinned down the back by a "kitmutghar" and cured

with ashes, and was therefore not worth very much as a specimen. However, the taxidermist made the best that he could of its remains. Its sex was not ascertained, but I fancy that it was a female. I think that the species has only been twice previously recorded from these parts.

XLIV.—*On the Birds collected during an Expedition through Somaliland and Southern Abyssinia to Lake Zwai.* By W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT and R. J. REID. *With Field-notes by the Collector, Mr. ALFRED E. PEASE.*

(Plate XIII.)

ON the 8th of November, 1900, Mr. Alfred E. Pease, accompanied by his wife and their son, Mr. Edward Pease, landed at Zaila, on a sporting and ornithological expedition. Their intention was to travel in a south-westerly direction, and, passing through Jimma and Kaffa, to strike the Sobat River, follow it to its junction with the Bhar-el-Abiad or White Nile, and return home by Cairo.

Owing to the illness of his son, Mr. Pease, to his regret, was obliged to abandon his expedition. After having reached the north end of Lake Zwai and entered the Gueragué district, he returned to the Hawash Valley, and followed the river down to the Danakil country, and so made his way back to the coast. He was accompanied by Mr. L. C. Harwood, an experienced collector and taxidermist, who, on many previous occasions, had accompanied expeditions to various parts of East Africa and done excellent work. With his assistance a large collection of birds was formed, including nearly 800 skins of 305 species, which are dealt with in the present paper. In spite of the difficulties under which they were often prepared, owing to the expedition being constantly on the march, all the specimens are in excellent condition, which speaks well for Mr. Harwood's ability.

The first part of the route followed, from Zaila to Gildessa,